

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Life-Link Nebraska Receives Governor's Points of Light Award**

**Lincoln, Neb.** – Life-Link Nebraska, received the Governor's Points of Light Group Award from Governor Dave Heineman on today at a ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol. The awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

LifeLink-Nebraska on the campus of Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff is a transitional program for youth with disabilities, ages 18-21. Since the program inception in 2007, service-learning has been an important part of the curriculum. It is important to educate the community at large about the capabilities of youth with disabilities, and the ability they have to make a positive contribution to society. At the same time, involvement in these activities cements a strong relationship with community agencies and businesses and develops essential leadership skills in youth.

Completed projects include:

- Community Blood Drive – Regional West Medical Center
- Soap Box Derby Project – building a derby racer and assisting in the regeneration of the track/concession stand
- Truck Full of Love – assisting First State Bank with warm coat drive and food drive for community pantry
- Planting Trees at Riverside Zoo – with Kiwanis Club Members
- Community Care & Share Day – United Way/completed parking lot maintenance and moved office furniture
- Red Cross Bowl-A-Thon – raised \$1600 for local Red Cross chapter with First State Bank
- Thanksgiving Dinner – assist ESU #13 in setting up, serving and cleaning up community holiday dinner
- Library Book Sticker Project – assist Gering Public Library in relabeling all books with bar code information
- Rural Health Education Program and Nebraska Association of Financial Advisors – compiled marketing bags

These projects have occurred over the course of the last 5 years. The Soap Box project lasted an entire semester, while most of the other events were completed in one or two days. Program staff has assisted the young adult students with transportation needs and other support needs to complete the assigned activities.

Also recognized at the ceremony and receiving the Youth Award was Nicki Ahlschwede, high school senior at for her volunteer efforts with the Lincoln Youth Volunteers group who plan and develop their own volunteer projects to address various needs in the Lincoln community. The adult award was presented to Kristina Churchill for her volunteer mobilization in Washington county during the flooding of 2011 along the Missouri River.

To nominate individuals and groups for the Governor's Points of Light Awards who have made a difference through volunteerism, visit the ServeNebraska website at [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov) or call Kimberle Hall 800-291-8911 or 402-471-6228. The next nomination deadline is June 15, 2012.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

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